

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL

Vol. V.]

General Summary of News.

[No. 188.]

We feel ourselves alternately pressed by a demand on our columns for European intelligence of the highest interest, by local subjects in immediate agitation, and by the communications of Correspondents on topics of general concern. Whichever way we turn, we find in each of these sources more than enough to engross our whole attention, to the exclusion of all the rest. Our readers must not be too hasty to complain, therefore, if we give them to-day a Vestry Question, to-morrow Politics, the next day a Town Hall Meeting, beyond that a Price Current, and following this the Drama, Music, and the Arts. Readers of Daily Journals are now become so numerous, that in the variety of tastes, there are necessarily some who feel delight in that which is insufferably irksome to others; and others again who find intolerably dull that which their opposites in feeling devour with avidity; and when we throw ourselves occasionally, or indeed perpetually, on their indulgence, we have the consolation to believe that the majority of the mass will construe our variety and change "from grave to gay, from lively to severe," with but little spleen and abundant liberality.

The only local topics of interest which we have to mention are the result of the Meeting of the Town Hall on Monday, to raise a tribute to the memory of the late Warren Hastings, the proceedings of which will appear to-morrow, and the agreeable intelligence that Madame BIANCHI and Mr. LACY have determined on giving public Concerts for the season, the details of which will be speedily arranged and communicated to their Friends.

On this last subject it would be premature to offer our opinions. Our information is accurate, however, with regard to the fact of their general plan being settled for the Concerts, though the details are not yet arranged, and the talents of those who will preside have been already too favorably pronounced on, by a higher and a more competent tribunal of taste, for us to offer any thing in addition to the judgment there passed.

The necessity of European education has been acknowledged; and youth of both sexes leave this country annually, to share in those benefits which have hitherto appeared impracticable of attainment in Asia. One branch of education is happily no longer out of the reach of the Calcutta public: the arrival of Mr. Lacy and Mrs. Bianchi Lacy, must be hailed by every admirer of Music, as a most important event; the Concerts they have in contemplation, will no doubt be numerous patronized; they intend also (which we have from certain authority) to give lessons both on the Piano Forte and in Singing, and their professional reputation as Instructors in England, is quite sufficient to insure them every success here.

The Logierian System of Instruction on the Piano Forte, Mr. and Mrs. Lacy intend to establish in Calcutta; this late invention (if it may be so called) is one of the greatest improvements of modern times, and for beginners on the Piano Forte, possesses advantages that would have been thought a few years ago to be quite out of the reach of possibility. In many cases in England (where the first masters now adopt it), a pupil who has been instructed only a few months, would be considered to have made equal progress with others, who under the former system had learnt nearly as many years.

When we turn to Europe, the Parliamentary measures that have passed before us in review within the last few days, seem to be of unusually great importance, and it is impossible to be insensible here, to questions which agitate the whole nation at home.

On the subject of Catholic Emancipation, and the State of the Nation, we have seen a great deal in the English Papers of the day, but the two following articles on those subjects, from the Examiner of the 7th of May, which has been furnished us by a Friend, deserve particular selection.

Catholic Emancipation.—The more the Catholic Question is agitated, the more are liberal people apt to be astonished that the Ministers will not concede it. They go through the items of it,—they look at it generally, they consider it with reference to the actual state of things; and at every fresh view they wonder how any intelligent persons can resist the arguments which they bring forward to prove the decency and the harmlessness of Emancipation.

But it must be confessed, that they totally overlook one great point. They think that the chief opposers of it are capable of understanding the arguments; and this is a great mistake. We are not joking. It may have an involuntary air of jesting, and undoubtedly has, to insinuate that the leading men in a nation are so shallow-headed. But England presents a phenomenon in this respect. Men so common-place could not rule a nation less old and great in its institutions. The work of government has, in the first-place, been made easy and secure to their hands by predecessors of a very different description; and what personal importance they want, is supplied to them by the very corruption of those institutions, and by that unnatural ascendancy of wealth, which stands people instead of intellectual power. They can work the machine, because it was originally put into such excellent order; and working is a different thing from making or from deeply

understanding. They are the Walkers of another's errory. They talk, in the same manner, at Congresses, of Liberty; because the use of the word Liberty has been handed down to them; not because they feel the thing. And in the same manner they won the battle of Waterloo, not because they deserved to win it any more than Bonaparte, but because the institutions handed down to them and the public spirit resulting from them, have survived even their own corruptions. It was in spite of those corruptions, in spite of the Ministers themselves, and of shallow heads resembling them, that the battle was won. But to win battles is a physical as well as moral thing, and belongs to the national character. It enables Ministers to knock out brains, but does not help them to any better.

Now the Ministers really do not understand the age they live in; and how should they? They feel themselves at the head of a great nation; their vanity leads them to think that they are there, not because of what may be called hereditary facilities coupled with new corruptions, but because they are clever, and are at the top of the age's intellect. Men under such circumstances are the most impenetrable of all foolish egotists. There is Lord Castlereagh, a man whose talent lies in this very impenetrability; he cannot make a decent speech, and evidently has not two ideas in his head out of the pale of office, yet he feels himself a statesman of great importance, and actually is so, as the world goes. Is he likely to change his opinion? There is also the Duke of Wellington, whose busts and pictures force us to criticise his face, which is as empty as well can be. There is nothing in it but strait forward soldiery, very good of its kind, no doubt, and very successful, but not at all intellectual to any purpose properly so called. This General is a great conqueror. He feels, doubtless, if he does not know, that he has a kind of dispensing power with intellectual reputation. Can we suppose that he is likely to change?

With these and other persons, we have not the smallest doubt that Catholic Emancipation is a sort of bugbear. Not that they think much about the matter in a religious point of view; but that if they do, they have not yet got beyond *For's Book of Martyrs* and the old grandam prejudices. They do, in their speeches, refer us to the old Catholic times, and argue from those to the present; and yet the next minute, with the usual inconsistency of shortsighted minds, who see nothing but the subject they are upon (and only a square yard of that), they will tell you of the French Revolution, and Deism, and Atheism, and how it has shaken the opinions of the whole world. The truth is, that there is as much difference between ancient Catholicism and modern, as between great power and none; and not only so, but between great power increasing or likely to increase and weakness incapable of recovering itself. Luther pelted the old one down with a few books. Does any one, but a person incapable to the last degree of generalizing his thoughts—fancy that it can come to life again from beneath all the libraries and hard-working presses of modern times,—presses which are grinding their iron teeth against superstition almost all over the civilized world, and working away equally in peace and war?

Besides, there is this great delusion among the Anti-Catholic alarmists I—they suppose that the Catholic faith is in its nature exclusively bigoted or intolerant; whereas it is not the Catholic faith that is so, but (to speak plainly) all faith in possession of power. All faith is at last so inclined. People in general hate to be opposed in argument at all; but in religious arguments, there is something at bottom which makes them particularly sore at opposition, and they wreak their impatience according to their condition in society and the state of the world. But it will be said that the Catholics burned people. Yes, they did so; and why? Because they were the first in possession of power, and had long had it all to themselves. Calvin shewed what the Calvinists would have done had they been in a similar situation when he burnt Servetus. Neither Catholics nor Calvinists could do such things now, even were they to get the establishment into their hands; first because they have both learnt better; and chiefly, because the great power of opinion is against them.

But the doctrines of the Catholics, it is said, are still what they were. Why to be sure, they have not held a Synod, and altered the articles of their faith. There are also bigots among them, as among other sects, who lay a stress upon particulars. But look at the doctrines in the Methodist publication:—nay, if you come to doctrines, look at your own in the Thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England. There are doctrines as bigoted as any in the Catholic faith,—those, for instance, of reprobation and election, which even ninety-nine clergymen out of a hundred would be ashamed to preach. If the Church of England, with all its power and rationality, has not thought fit to alter its articles in such respects, how are we to expect that the Catholics, with the united feelings upon them of former power, and present humiliation, would alter theirs? Their religion appears to them an old friend suffering adversity, whom it is not fit, at such a time, to reproach even with his offences.

We are far from despairing of this concession to the long injured and most foolishly treated feelings of Ireland; but it will not come through any thing like a conviction on the part of its opponents with regard to the religi-

ous part of the question. The Ministerial Papers indeed pretend that the question is not a religious, but a political one. If it is not a religious one, however, it is not a political. The Ministers and their servants evidently think it both, whether consciously or not; but that the political feeling is uppermost, we can well conceive. Besides general politics, there are politics which may be called personal; and these have a great influence on common understandings. The motives which induce the chief Anti-Catholics to hold out as they do, may be summed up as follow:—

1. Further difference of opinion on matters purely political.
2. Conscious ill-treatment of Ireland, during the extremes to which the difference ran. It is well known that the most implacable haters are those who have done the greatest injuries.
3. Ignorance of the subject, and old prejudices.
4. Inability to confess their ignorance, even if they were aware of it.
5. Jealousy of the talents of the Catholics, if they were left free.
6. A lurking suspicion, that although they could not possibly out-vote the Lords and Commons they might too well succeed in pleasing the Prince.

The Finance Committee.—That convenient *locum tenens* of Mr. Vansittart, who save him all the trouble of making up accounts, and stand so well between him and the public, have made a Report on the Revenue and Expenditure of the country, from which it appears that, in the fifth year of peace, and with an oppressive taxation still continuing, we paid off the sum of 1,600,000*l.*—a sum which, if things continued as they are for five hundred years, without war or decrease of commerce, would at the end of that time, and not before, liquidate the national debt. Yet this is the prospect upon which the hiring prints congratulate the nation, and affect to think a triumphant refutation of the "gloomy" assertions made during the war respecting the ruinous course then pursuing!

The juggle of the Sinking Fund is at last given up, though tacitly. The delusion had become too manifest to be persisted in, even with the help of Mr. Canning's face, and Mr. Bathurst's prosing mystification. It would have been exploded long ago, had it been connected with any thing but Finance; but figures are so alarming to most people, and the public accounts are generally so obscurely voluminous, that nobody would look into the matter. Besides they wished to remain in their former delusion: they had been told of the wondrous results of compound interest, of a penny accumulating in the course of some hundred years to a number of globes of gold; and they were delighted with beating the French, and being assured at the same time that this remarkable invention would cover all consequences. Some writers, however, saw through the delusion and explained it. They shewed, that it was impossible that any good could be done by laying by money when we could not meet our yearly expenditure; that nothing could be more fallacious than to suppose that the sum so laid by, went on itself, as it were, increasing by the addition of interest, since the nation was both the payer and receiver of that interest; and that the only real consequence was the incurring the expense of paying commissioners, and the additional price paid by those commissioners for stock, which was raised in value of their purchases, and the delusion itself. These truths were unpleasant, but appealed too much to common sense and common arithmetic to be resisted; the consequence is, that Ministers find it necessary to let the thing drop as quietly as possible, and their tools now rest their assertion of prosperity upon the ground of a real excess of income.

But what a dreary prospect does this state of things present! Now is the time when (if ever) the debt should be reduced; and yet, when all the reductions in our expenditure have been made that the Ministerial love of power and profit will allow, and when the taxation is kept up to a height unprecedented in time of peace, only a small surplus can be obtained,—so small indeed, that it could not be taken into any general view of the subject, if it were to continue for several years. And is the state of Europe, or indeed of the world in general, such, as to afford any ground for supposing that peace will continue long? The Government of France is such a neutral and trimming one, that it may perhaps contrive to keep things quiet as long as Louis lives, but as soon as his death happens, a crisis will arrive, and either the Ultras will establish his brother and heir on the throne (which is not at all likely), or the dynasty will be completely discarded, and the Bonapartists or Republicans will get uppermost. Germany is in a ferment, the people demanding constitutions, and the sovereigns resisting and evading their demands; Austria is poor, and perhaps not disinclined to assist to put Young Napoleon on the French throne; Italy is discontented; Russia seems lying in wait to take advantage of any German disturbance, and to slice off another piece of Austrian or Prussian Poland; and such is the state of Spain, that no one would be surprised to hear of any sudden explosion there. Then again, there is America, untrammelled by debts, growing greater every year, strengthening herself by the addition of large bodies of emigrants from the distressed countries of Europe, and able to be as haughty as she pleases, knowing what a war would be to us. Thus the probability is, that we shall be plunged into a new contest before we have got rid of the effects of the last, with an enormous debt and taxation as additional clogs; unless indeed the financial system was to break down first by its own weight, or to be tripped up by one of those accidents to which it is so extremely liable. In either case, a Government Bankruptcy stares us full in the face.

* Even when the Revenue exceeds the Expenditure, the Sinking Fund is an unnecessary and expensive machine: for whether we pay off half of the debt at once with overplus, or leave it to accumulate (ourselves causing the accumulation by paying the interest to the Commissioners) it amounts to the same thing.

Velocimanipede.—A new pedestrian carriage has been constructed on the principles of the Velocipede or Accelerator, only much enlarged. It seems to be to the first invention what a horse and gig is to a horse alone, and at any rate has the advantage of being a more social machine. It is calculated to accommodate three persons: the front compartment is constructed in the same manner as the common velocipede, the centre consists of a convenient seat, like the seat of a gig; and the third is behind, in the shape of a dickey. It is worked by the person in front and the person behind; the person in the middle, who may be a lady, sitting perfectly easy. The man in front has work of the same kind to do as the rider of the velocipede; the one behind has his foot supported by a footboard, and turns with each hand the wheels beside him; for this purpose a handle is fixed to the axis of each wheel. The inventor is Mr. Birch, of Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields. It is called a Velocimanipede, to denote the double action of the hands and feet.

Bank Affairs.—The concerns of the Bank begin now to assume a serious aspect; and we would strongly recommend to that body to consider what is doing or rather what is doing under its name, and on pretence of promoting its service. A meeting took place on Saturday, the 15th of May and the following may be relied on, as a copy of the nameless circular by which it was convened:

(Private.)

"Lombard-street, 14th May, 1816"

"A very general feeling of anxiety and alarm being expressed at this time, by the mercantile class, on the measures to be proposed and adopted in Parliament, upon the reports of the Secret Committees of Inquiry into the state of the Bank of England, you are, at the desire of many respectable persons, most earnestly requested to give the advantage of your presence at a meeting of merchants, bankers, and traders to-morrow, (Saturday,) at the City of London-tavern, at twelve o'clock precisely, to consider and determine on the propriety of a more general or a public meeting, or of preparing a petition for general signature to both Houses of Parliament, against any measure tending, by a forced, precipitate, or undue contraction of the currencies of the three kingdoms, to embarrass trade in general, distress the value of property, and to injure alike the public credit, agriculture, manufactures, and commerce."

As all strangers were carefully excluded, we can only repeat what passed from oral information, which must of course, be received as imperfect: It is said, that not more than thirty persons were present, though other accounts make the meeting to have consisted of double that number. Mr. Bainbridge, of Warwick-square, took the chair, when Mr. Alderman Heygate addressed the company on the cause of their being assembled. He said, that he viewed with feelings of alarm, which he knew to be common to all classes of commercial men, the principles recommended in the two Parliamentary Reports on the object of our paper circulation. The adoption of those principles must prove the destruction of our commerce, and the overthrow of all productive industry; inasmuch as it would impose on the Bank of England the necessity of enlarging or limiting its issues according to the state of the foreign exchanges. Those exchanges were influenced by a thousand accidental, unknown, and temporary causes; and the whole property of the country, therefore, would be subjected to a sudden rise or depression in its value, by reference to such a standard. As far as he had examined the evidence, he found in it no authority for the practical conclusions to which both committees had arrived. On the contrary, it appeared by the evidence before the Lords, that the amount of the circulation medium was not greater now than before the suspension of cash-payments. How, then, could any diminution of that circulating medium be necessary when there was a revenue of 54,000,000*l.* to be collected, and an existing debt of 800,000,000*l.*? No time should be lost in petitioning Parliament against any measure founded on these reports, as this example would no doubt be followed by other mercantile bodies, and as the discussion of the question he had reason to know would certainly not be postponed beyond Friday next. A Mr. Cripps, a country banker, and a few others, also addressed the meeting. A series of resolutions were then read and approved of. Immediately afterwards Mr. Bainbridge is stated to have quitted the chair, and in his absence a vote was passed for publishing them in the papers. Mr. Bainbridge hearing of this, returned to the meeting, and is reported to have objected to the signature of the resolutions. It should seem, however, from the Advertisement which has been sent to us, that he finally acquiesced affixing his name to a resolution for calling another meeting to-morrow.

Now, with respect to this proceeding, we must observe, that even when the Spafields meeting was called, obscure as was the hand-bill in which the summons was given, yet there were at least two names affixed to it, and those names were found to belong to real persons. But to the above notification, in which the credit and character of a great chartered company is concerned, no one thought proper to subjoin his name or place of residence. The latter meeting was therefore really more suspicious and irregular than the former. However, a meeting of merchants, &c. being called to assist the Bank, the obvious course prescribed to such a meeting we should have thought, could not be mistaken. The Bank being unable to give cash in exchange for its own notes, the meeting, no doubt, meant to open a house and give cash for them. If this were intended, we might overlook the informality of the summons. Or, perhaps, it might be the object of the first meeting, by which also a second is talked of, to propose another Bank, upheld by more substantial wealth, at which the notes of the old Bank shall be received and paid in specie; this, also, is not unusual in banking transactions. But no; the meeting had not any such object in view; the persons

meeting do not intend to assist the Bank with one guinea of cash; they only mean to petition Parliament, that Bank-notes shall continue to circulate without being paid in specie at all; or, which is the same thing, at any definite time. If the meeting meant any good to the Bank, it would no doubt have assisted it in the only substantial way, by advancing cash upon its notes; but it makes no such offer. It was clearly, therefore their own accommodation that the people who summoned and attended the meeting had in view. What, we ask, would be thought in a similar case?—A great mercantile house is in embarrassment respecting its outstanding engagements; the general body of its creditors (as presented by the two Houses of Parliament) meet and prefix a far distant time, at which it shall be prepared to honour its own bills when presented. Whereupon, another batch of individuals, who have lived upon the great house, start up, and meet, not to plan any assistance to the distressed concern, but to request the mass of creditors to put off their just and long protracted demands, in order that they, the petitioners, may be able to wring yet more from the credit of the great house? It is in truth as much the interest of the nation as of these individuals, that the Bank should be leniently dealt with—that it should not be oppressed; but such men have no right to look at their own convenience, and then under pretence of assisting the Bank put off the just demands of the whole nation; this conduct is both insulting to the Bank, and unjust to every one else.

We should apprehend that among the people who drew up the circular there was certainly some wit, who meant to have a sneer at the Bank, in a way that his duller brethren did not understand: for what but a sneer against the Bank can be meant in the request, that it may not be forced to pay its notes precipitately? Why the first act for the suspension of cash payments took place in May, 1797, and the duration of the restriction was then limited to the 24th of June following; and now, in 1819, the Bank reports do even yet allow two years to elapse from the present May, before the Bank even issues bullion to the few who can call for it—above 63 ounces—at the Mint price.

It is reported that a counter party is likely to come forward, and prepare a petition on another view of the question.

[London Times, May 17.

ASIA.

We have received the Bombay and Madras Papers in usual order, and from the Government Gazette of the last Presidency, of the 26th of Aug. we obtain the following paragraphs:—

Madras.—On the 21st of Aug. a considerable part of the Brass Ordnance captured at Mahidpoor having arrived within the limits of the Presidency, they were met by the Commander in Chief opposite to Saint George's Church, and were conducted by His Excellency under the Escort of a strong Detachment of Troops, consisting of Cavalry and Infantry, to the Government House, where they were received in front of the Banqueting Room by the Right Honorable the Governor. The same Escort, under the command of Colonel Molle of his Majesty's 46th Regiment, conveyed them from thence within the Ramparts of Fort St. George.

His Excellency the Commander in Chief, upon delivering over the charge of the Guns and Trophies, addressed the Right Honorable the Governor as follows:

"I have the pleasure, Sir, to inform you, that thirty-five peices of Brass Ordnance, being a part of fifty-two of the same nature which were taken from the Enemy at the battle of Mahidpoor, are at this instant under an Escort entering the limits of your Garrison of Fort St. George.

I have, in consequence, the honor to request your permission to place them at your disposal, with the view that you may be pleased to cause them to be received and deposited therein.

It is at the same time gratifying to me to add that these Trophies were acquired through the valor and discipline of the Troops of this Presidency, of whom the 1st and 3d Divisions of the Army of the Deccan, by which the Victory of Mahidpoor was achieved, were solely composed. The disposition directed to be made under your immediate authority in your Capacity of Governor of Fort St. George, of the Troops composing your Body Guards with those of your Garrison to give Relat to their arrival from the Field of Battle into the British Capital on the Coast of Coromandel, will, I am confident, prove as flattering to the feelings of every Individual of the Army as to mine in particular.

For these distinguished marks of your consideration and attention towards the feelings of the Army and my own, I beg leave to tender to you, Sir, the unfeigned assurances of our united gratitude."

To the above Address, the Right Honorable the Governor made the following Reply—

"The Thanks of the Court of Directors, and of both Houses of Parliament, having been conveyed by the highest authority in India to your Excellency and to the Officers and Men who were led to victory in Central India under your personal Command, it would ill become so humble an individual as myself to attempt making any addition to such splendid and lasting testimonials of the triumphant achievements of yourself and your Comrades in Arms.

All I can presume to offer, are my sincere congratulations upon these indelible proofs of the applause and gratitude of your country, and also upon the high Military honors conferred by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent upon your Excellency, and extended by selection and in gradation to Officers of different ranks upon this Establishment.

I cannot allude to the Madras Troops without venturing to profit by the privilege I enjoy in virtue of my Commission as Governor in Council, to express in your presence and in that of the numerous and respectable body of Officers here assembled, the deep sense entertained by the Government of Fort Saint George, of the merits of their most Gallant Army.

It is perhaps, however, less the province of a Government to dwell upon the successful results derived from the undaunted courage of Troops in the field, than to point out other valuable and important qualifications.

What Army has ever manifested greater perseverance in enduring fatigue, in submitting to privations, in surmounting all obstacles opposed to their progress by the inclemency of seasons or violence of the elements?—In what Army has the perfection of discipline been more conspicuous?—Where have Troops been more distinguished for their inviolable fidelity to their Colours or for attachment to their Officers, to whom they look up with confidence and affection, as to their protectors and friends, and I may even add as to fathers?

Your Excellency may be assured that to me this is the proudest hour of my Government, when upon the threshold of the Majestic Edifice erected by the Munificence of the East India Company, in commemoration of the heroic deeds of former times, I receive from the Commander in Chief of the Madras Army, the brilliant Trophies of the glorious and decisive Victory of Mahidpoor."

The Remains of Colonel Patrick Walker were re-interred on the 19th of Aug. in St. George's Burying Ground, under military honors. The Death of this lamented Officer, it will be recollected, took place in October 1817, near Bassein; from which place the Body has been conveyed to the Presidency. A Memoir of Colonel Walker has lately been published in the Asiatic Journal, of which the following are Extracts:—

"Colonel Walker was placed on the Staff, and attached to the third division of the Army of the Deccan, which he was appointed to command during the absence of Sir John Malcolm on political affairs. The Colonel left Jaulnah about the middle of September, with his staff and a regiment of cavalry. The division was appointed to assemble at Amorawitty, and it was expected that he should be at its head on the banks of the Nerbuddah by the month of October. But this narrative is now drawing to that termination which awaits equally human enjoyments and suffering.

Vestry.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

If I rightly comprehend the sentiments of the Editor of the Monday Paper, on the subject of the approaching Vestry Meeting, I am entirely of the same opinion with him. The SELF-SELECTED party have hitherto held out that their conduct was sanctioned by the implied approbation of the Government; and many persons, if they have not wholly concurred with this view of the question, have doubted, at least, as to the manner in which it was considered by the high authorities. But now, I suppose, there cannot any longer be two opinions entertained about the matter.

A Letter addressed to the Sheriff by the duly elected, but illegally ejected, Sidesmen, has been placed before the Public. This Letter has been submitted to the Government by the Sheriff. The reply made to that reference, under date of the 3rd instant, by the Secretary in the General Department, says, that the Most Noble the Governor General in Council is pleased to sanction a Meeting of the Inhabitants of Calcutta. Of what Inhabitants? Why of those "who may have a right to attend and vote at the Election of Vestrymen!!" What is the exclusive, the triumphant, inference to be hence drawn? Can anything be more explicit? Here we have it declared by the Government, through its appointed organic channel, that there ARE certain Inhabitants of Calcutta, who have a RIGHT to attend and to VOTE at the Election of Vestrymen!!! Consequently, having this right now, they were in possession of it last Easter, and long before. The Government itself, therefore, having, in a manner, decided against the usurpations of the self-select, and in favor of the just claims of the Inhabitants of Calcutta, nothing remains to be done, I apprehend, but that the former should make an ample apology to the Public, not only for the error into which they have fallen, but also for the moderate, discreet, yet determined obstinacy with which they have persisted in it,—and that the VESTRY should, decently and quietly, be put upon the footing on which it was intended to be placed under the Constitution framed for it thirty years ago.

Is it possible, Mr. Editor, that there are any persons capable of quibbling about the word MAY in the Letter addressed to the Sheriff by Mr. Secretary Lushington?—"the Inhabitants of Calcutta who may have a right, &c."—Is it likely that the Government would banter the people living under its protection, or play with their feelings? No, if the Government had not been satisfied that there were Inhabitants of Calcutta who actually had this right to vote, the reply to the Sheriff, would, probably, have stated that,—as the Most Noble the Governor General in Council was of opinion that NONE of the Inhabitants of Calcutta had ANY RIGHT to attend and to VOTE at the Election of the Vestrymen, His Lordship in Council could NOT give his sanction to the proposed Meeting.

I am, Sir, Your's obediently,

INJURATUS SECUNDUS.

Chowringhee, September 14, 1819.

Reply to the Military Query.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,—Perceiving in your Journal of this day a Query, upon the subject of which I had formerly been induced to bestow a good deal of consideration, I take the liberty not of answering the Question, but of making known my opinion regarding it; because I conceive it to embrace a subject of as vital military importance as could be brought under our notice. It matters not personally to the Officers of the Army how the Question is decided, for only those in the lower ranks can feel either the good or bad effects of whatever the proper Authorities may determine upon; this ought, in my mind, to render us, if possible, more cautious in forming a decided opinion on the subject, particularly when added to our knowledge of how it may effect our present mode of administering Justice.

I have reason to believe that a case was not very long since transmitted for the decision of the Commander in Chief, including the very circumstance now under investigation; for it related to the challenge of a Prisoner having been over-ruled before a Detachment Court Martial. I know not what were His Excellency's observations upon it (if ever it did, as I believe, come before him) but I should be inclined to place great confidence in their legality, from the tenor of His Lordship's remarks upon Courts Martial; which I take to be far superior to any I have ever met with.

The first Question of your Correspondent is "Whether the true spirit of Martial Law does, or does not, allow the privilege of challenging to all Prisoners brought for trial, before Courts Martial, whether they be General, Line, or Regimental ones?" I am decidedly of opinion that the above privilege should be allowed (agreeably to the spirit of Martial Law) at every Court Martial; and I shall state to you the reasons upon which I found that opinion. Let us suppose that on a Line or Regimental Court Martial there are five Members, out of which number the Prisoner knows, and can clearly prove, that two are inimical towards him, and that they previously expressed a wish to see him punished; suppose farther that the Prisoner's objections (though so strongly founded) were over-ruled, and that he was condemned and flogged by the decision of three Members, two of whom were these prejudiced ones, would the Prisoner in that case be justly or unjustly dealt with?

It cannot be answered that were so strong a case as I have mentioned to occur, the prejudiced members might be removed; because the evident injustice of allowing them to remain could not authorise the Court to admit the Prisoner's challenge, if the Law forbade it; and if such challenge can be legally admitted in one case, it can also be admitted in another. What reason can be adduced for allowing of Challenges before a General Court Martial, which will not apply with equal force on the side of a line, or other inferior one? If prejudice or enmity can injure a Prisoner, when harboured in the breast of a member of a General Court Martial, can it have no detrimental effect upon him if allowed to bias a member of an inferior one? A Prisoner cannot be said to be tried at all, if his just cause of challenge is rejected; because the proceedings from that moment, are carried on *sine figura judicii*, and the greatest safeguard of the purity and justice of the trial by Jury is strangled upon.

If an appeal were made to a General Court Martial by a Prisoner, on the plea of his challenge having been disregarded before an inferior Court, I conceive the former would be bound to annul the sentence as being unjust and irregular, no matter what the evidence might have been; because the presumption would be, that the member whose enmity the prisoner proved was guided in forming his decision more by his private feelings of hostility than by the evidence.

The second Question proposed by your Correspondent is—"And if such a privilege be allowed by the spirit of the Military Law, in these higher Courts, upon what grounds can a Prisoner be denied this privilege, when brought to trial before a minor Court?" Now I know of no grounds on which the privilege can be denied in such a case; and that is a principal reason for my condemning the practice. I have spoken with many Officers on the subject, who supported the justice of the denial, but who could never shew me any grounds at all for it, except that it is the usual custom.

But the question is what gave rise to the custom? Not any distinct act of the Legislature—not any clause in the Military Act, or Articles of War,—and not any opinion, either expressed or implied, of our most able Writers on Martial Law. The only way in which I can account for its adoption is this; that when inferior Courts Martial were not regularly constituted, by having their Members and witnesses sworn, they might have been considered more in the light of Courts of Enquiry, before which no challenges are allowed; but if that conjecture be well founded, what it relates to, cannot now be brought in support of the denial of a prisoner's most important privilege; when Regimental Courts Martial are as regularly constituted as any other Courts in the kingdom. Legal authority cannot be brought in favor of the system—which is *per se* sufficient to prove its illegality—without mentioning the more positive proof of our being able to bring arguments against it, founded on the practice and principles of Military Law, and Civil Law also.

My opinion therefore is that the privilege of challenging ought to be allowed before every Court Martial, and that there are no good grounds for refusing it.

Calcutta, Sept. 14, 1819.

AN OFFICER.

* The word *all* was misplaced in the original thro' an error of the Press, and it should be read *all* Courts Martial, instead of *all* Prisoners, in which sense the Writer of the present Reply rightly understands it.

Answers to the Queries of 'Old Times.'

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

It is evident the Author of the Letter signed "Old Times" and published in your last Saturday's Journal, has not the same objection to useless writing that he professes to have for "idle speaking," or he could and would have solved his doubts without imagining that the Public cared to know how often he went to Church, or how much he gave in charity, or that the public needed to be told the rupee of a poor man "ought to be as good a payment" as the gold mohur of the rich man at a charitable collection.

But as "Old Times" will not give himself the trouble to come in from Garden Reach, unless the information he requires is given to him, and as he professes not to know he is qualified to vote at the Meeting to be held at the Town Hall on the 22nd instant, although it appears from the conclusion of his Letter to you, he does not hesitate to point out those he believes are not entitled to vote at this Meeting; I will, without further noticing his inconsistency, state to you for his satisfaction, what in my opinion constitutes a right to vote at the above mentioned Meeting.

1st.—All persons who have contributed to the Charity Fund, at present supposed to be in the custody of the persons who usurp the trusts and functions of the Vestry, and call themselves the Select Vestrymen and Sidesmen of St. John's.

2ndly.—All persons who attend Divine Service at St. John's Cathedral or at the Mission Church, commonly called the Old Church.

3rdly.—All Christians who have paid Parochial Fees to the Clergy (of either of the above named Churches) on the occasion of Baptisms, Marriages, or Funerals, have, I think, all and every one of them, a right to vote.

In case "Old Times" does not read the Newspapers with attention it is as well to mention that those who do not attend the Churches above-mentioned are always, after the Easter and Christmas collections, by advertisement invited to contribute.

Your Correspondent "Old Times" appears, Mr. Editor, to be a crusty old fellow, rather intolerant to his brethren of St. Andrew's, who for all he knows may have contributed very largely to the Vestry Fund, and he does not appear to have yet troubled himself with the main question at issue, viz. Whether the Gentlemen who now hold the Offices of Vestrymen and Sidesmen of St. John's Church were warranted in expelling the two Gentlemen who were elected at the same time as themselves by a majority of the Inhabitants who attended the Vestry Meeting held at St. John's Church last Easter Monday. Still I am very anxious he should attend the Meeting to be held at the Town Hall on the 22nd instant. The questions he has put, shew he is not indifferent to matters of public interest, and therefore, I am sure he thinks with me, that all who are anxious for truth and justice to prevail, and be successful in the discussion of public questions, are also most desirous that the question to be agitated on the 22nd instant at the Town Hall, may be submitted to the consideration of as respectable and as numerous an Assembly as has ever met on any previous occasion.

I cannot conclude this Letter without expressing my expectation that the very excellent discourse delivered yesterday morning at St. John's Cathedral, after Divine Service, will have tended to withdraw from the Vestry contention two persons, who in the spirit of peace and in the faithful exercise of their sacred commissions are bound on all occasions to forbear, to meet opposition with submission, and by all means in their power to reconcile and put at rest all differences amongst their brethren. Not only those two persons, Mr. Editor, but also the few others who from the weakness of human nature have persisted in error because they could not muster the liberality to confess themselves wrong, and who, whilst they have continued obstinately shewing their contempt for public opinion, have nevertheless admitted their amenableness to it, I expect will not have heard with inattention or remembered with indifference the very forcibly impressive and convincing language employed during this discourse to point out to them (and the congregation assembled) the unalterably wise and just decree of Providence on the occasion of the separation of Abram and Lot, and to recommend most earnestly to their constant contempt the sordid and contentious disposition of Lot and to their constant imitation and adoption the peaceful, conceding, and disinterested amiableness of Abram.

Such lessons of peace and gentleness, delivered in so sacred a place, and with a manner so faithfully representing the beautiful morality expressed, need only to be always eminently useful, that they should be always delivered by those whose conduct exemplifies these precepts; thus leaving the hesitating mind no room to doubt, that their doctrine is as easy to practise as it is amiable and praise-worthy to teach.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

One who voted at the Vestry Election last Easter-Monday;
One who reprobates the expulsion of two of the persons then elected; and One who intends to be at the Meeting at the Town Hall on the 22d instant.

Intally, Sept. 13, 1819.

P. S.—Should you have occasion to know "Old Times," Mr. Editor, I beg of you to ask him to read the very sensible and dispassionate notice taken in the India Gazette, of the proposed Meeting at the Town Hall on the 22d instant.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY, MARCH 23.

STATUTE LAW OF SCOTLAND.

Sir J. NEWPORT said, that it was a practice with the Lords of Session and other Scotch Judges, to declare that certain statutes or parts of statutes had fallen into desuetude, and were no longer in force, thus assuming a legislative power. By this means, the people were ignorant what was and what was not the law. He therefore moved an address to the Prince Regent, praying him to direct an inquiry into the nature and extent of this power, and also for copies of the statutes fallen into desuetude.

The LORD ADVOCATE opposed the motion. The Courts of Judicature did not declare what statute was law, and what was not law; but they decided on cases before them, on those fundamental principles which were coeval with the laws themselves. The Learned Lord then cited some authorities to show that a statute may be repealed by long disuse. One of the grounds for deposing James 2d was that he revived obsolete laws; and yet the practice of rejecting such laws was said to be vexatious.

Mr. BOSWELL remarked, that while such a practice continued, no man could know what was or was not an Act of Parliament, unless he could afford to have the question argued before the Court of Session.

The House divided—For the motion, 15—Against it, 33—Majority, 18.—Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24.

LONDON CLERGY.

Sir J. GRAHAM said, that the Committee on the Petition of the London Clergy had reported, that the Petitioners had failed to prove their allegations. This Petition was signed by the Clergymen of 50 parishes in the City, and prayed for further increase of stipend. In the reign of Henry VIII. the Clergy were entitled to 2s. 9d. in the pound; but this was taken from them by an Act, called the Fire Act, and it was found, that in 1804 they only received 4d. or 5d. in the pound. Parliament in consequence relieved them, but that relief was found insufficient. Out of fifty Clergymen, who had signed the present Petition, 30 performed their respective duties without curates; 16 of them were even without parsonage-houses; and under these circumstances they had come forward, not to claim 2s. 9d. in the pound, but merely such an increase of stipend as Parliament should say they ought to have. Their Petition referred to a decree (enrolled in the Court of Chancery by Commissioners appointed under it) enabling the Clergy to receive the 2s. 9d. The existence of this decree was proved by a reference to the statute book, by more than 100 determinations founded upon it, and by a recognition of it in the archives of the City. He could not therefore conceive how the Committee could resolve that the Petitioners had not proved their allegations. He moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the former Act for the relief of the London Clergy.

Mr. D. W. HARVEY contended, that the decree referred to had not the force of a law. A Commission had been appointed by an Act of Henry VIII., whose decisions were to have the force of law, if enrolled before a certain time, but if not so enrolled, to be of no authority. This enrolment had never taken place, though the decree might be produced; and consequently the Petitioners had failed to prove their allegations. In a note to Tomlin and Raithby's edition of the statutes, it was stated, that the decree had neither been enrolled, nor was it to be found in any old edition of the statutes. The Committee had been of this opinion in the proportion of ten to three. The Hon. Gentleman then blamed the rapacious spirit of the Clergy, who wanted to obtain nothing less than one-sixth of the rack-rental of the City of London. They had forced into their Petition the Act of Henry, with which they had nothing to do, except it were to exhibit the craving spirit which actuated them. The Hon. Baronet had endeavoured to excite the compassion of the House for these five and thirty poor Clergymen; but would the House believe that they were none of them, on an average, receiving less than 500l. a year? Twenty-five out of 35 were pluralists, and not a few of those among the fattest pluralists of that reverend profession. (Hear, hear!) These poor Clergymen were, perhaps, the best calculators in the metropolis; their care for the souls of the parishioners did not at all interfere with quite as great a care for themselves; and accordingly, instead of occupying the houses belonging to their livings they found it answer their purposes much better to let them out to merchants and manufacturers, who could afford to pay them exorbitant rents. (Cheers.) Not a few of the incumbents received annually 1,200l. and even 2,000l.; and yet what did they pay their Curates? Not more than 60l., 70l., or 80l. a year: and some in an excess of liberality were charitable enough to throw in the surplice fees, amounting to the enormous sum of perhaps 7l. or 8l. per annum! For these Reverend Gentlemen, therefore, to come to Parliament with the mockery of distress, was neither consistent with truth nor with the sacred character which they were so well paid to sustain. (Hear.) He hoped the House would think that the Committee had come to a correct decision, that there was no pretence for the motion.

Alderman WOOD observed, that two persons had been employed for a month to search in the city, but had not been able to find the decree in question. The only evidence of its existence was, that it was included in a modern copy of the statutes. The Clergy had asserted that they were entitled to 2s. 9d. in the pound by this decree, but as they had not proved it, the Committee stated, that they had failed to prove this allegation. All the Clergy had not come forward: some had been prudent enough not to bring their emoluments before the public, or perhaps felt how unreasonable it was to throw fresh burdens on the citizens. Those who had claimed increased stipends were well provided for both in and out of the city: the Clergyman of St. Peter's, Cornhill, received 632l. per annum; he was non-resident, and was also vicar of Tottenham: another was paid 491l., another 450l., another 356l., another 376l., and another 600l. per annum, besides emoluments derived from other benefices and situations: for instance, the Clergyman of Allhallows had also the living of Stonesfield, and a stall in a cathedral; another had preferment at Stoke-Newington, and a second at Shrewsbury; while several were minor canons of St. Paul's, to whom one parish only paid 17,000l. per annum.

Nevertheless, most of these reverend gentlemen employed curates at salaries as low as possible; and because they would not pay enough for men of talent to discharge the duties of the pulpit, many of the congregations were put to the heavy expense of paying for evening lectures. (Hear.)

Sir T. BARING was sure that not one of the Clergy let their houses for profit.

Mr. WYNN thought the main allegation of the Petitioners was proved by the acquiescence of two centuries.

Alderman WAITHMAN remarked, that the Minister of St. Anne's, Blackfriars, and of Aldgate, had made great exertions to be elected by the parishioners, and then turned round on their friends and demanded a double salary. What conscience could these gentlemen have? It was remarkable, that when the Clergy applied to Parliament in 1804, though they obtained an increase of stipend, their present claim was not admitted.

Mr. PEAL and Mr. WILBERFORCE thought the committee had exceeded their powers in stating whether the allegations were or were not made out, and thus debarring the House from discussing the claims of the Petitioners. The latter gentleman considered the argument,—that the Petitioners were otherwise provided for, as indirectly patronizing the system of plurality.

The SPEAKER was of opinion, that the Committee had not been authorized to give any opinion respecting the truth of the allegation.

Leave was given to bring in the Bill.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25.

POOR LAWS.

Mr. S. BOURNE said, that the evils of the present system of Poor Laws were threefold:—1. The enormous expenses incurred by parishes, in prosecuting or defending appeals, and in removing paupers; 2. The injustice under which parishes laboured, to which old paupers were sent back, after they had spent their youth and strength elsewhere. 3. The hardship upon the paupers, who, having resided many years, and formed connexions at a distance, were sent home, and separated from all their friends, to die in a remote poor-house. He proposed, that settlement should be acquired now by residence alone, say for three years, which would simplify the whole subject; and that an absence of less than 90 days should not be allowed to defeat the settlement. One of his objects was to remove some of the restrictions on the free circulation of labour. He should therefore move for leave to bring in a Bill to regulate the settlement of the poor.—Leave given.

Leave was also given to Mr. Bourne to bring in a Bill to provide for placing out and sustaining children that could not be supported by their parents, instead of the present mode of granting allowances to the parents, which were frequently misapplied; and also to prevent any relief being afforded to able-bodied labourers in employment.

Mr. T. COURTENAY obtained leave to bring in a Bill for the farther encouragement of Friendly Societies; and also a Bill to establish Benefit Societies in every Parish.—Adjourned.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26.

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.

Lord ALTHORP called the attention of the House to a flagrant breach of privilege. A soldier of the first regiment of Guards, named William Stynton, had been summoned to give evidence before the Worcester Election Committee. He had attended at the House of Commons, and had been examined on Saturday last. As he was retiring from the room in which the Committee sat, and was crossing the lobby of the House, he was arrested by a sergeant in the Guards, for absence from Parade, in consequence of his attendance at the House of Commons. Since that time, the man had been tried by a Court-Martial, though sentence had not, he believed, been passed upon him. It was a most flagrant breach of privilege to arrest, in the precincts of the House, any witness in attendance.

After some conversation, the Sergeant and Stynton were ordered to be forthwith brought up.

Sergeant Harvey, who had arrested Stynton, was now brought up and examined. He stated, that he had taken the soldier, in consequence of orders from Sergeant-Major Sutton, because he was absent from the drill in the morning; that he took him on the lobby steps, the soldier telling him that his examination was concluded; that he conveyed him to the Sergeant-Major and was afterwards taking him to the barracks, when he ran off, but was re-taken; that Stynton was tried by a Court-martial for absenting himself from drill, for running away from him, and for stealing a piece of cloth; and that he pleaded in defence his being obliged to attend at the House.

The Sergeant-Major was then examined; and confirmed the above statements adding, that Stynton behaved very insolently both to him, and to the Adjutant, refusing to answer any questions; and that the Court-martial found him guilty of one or two of the charges, but forgave him on account of his attendance on the House of Commons.

Lord ALTHORP was happy to find that in point of fact no breach of privilege had been committed; he considered however that the subject should be prosecuted to an end; and in order that it might be fully recorded in their journals, he moved that the minutes of the Court-martial should be produced.

Mr. BECKETT thought there was no reason for the motion, as there was no evidence that the man had been tried upon any charge connected with his attendance at the House.

The Hon. Col. TOWNSHEND (Colonel of the Regiment) stated that having found that the man had broken away from the Sergeant, and in other respects misconducted himself, he directed that he should be proceeded with in the usual way. He did not know, whether absence from drill was one of the charges against Stynton on the Court-Martial.

Lord ALTHORP thought that point should be ascertained.

Colonel WOOD said, that as the Hon. Member had distinctly said that Stynton was not confined for absence from drill, the motion was unnecessary. The motion was negatived—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF LORDS,—TUESDAY, MARCH 30.

WINDSOR ESTABLISHMENT—GRANT TO THE DUKE OF YORK.

The House went into a Committee on the Windsor Establishment Bill.

Earl GREY made various observations on the Bill, the principle of which met his approbation. With respect, however, to the proposed grant to the Duke of York, he deemed it every way objectionable. What, he asked, were the expenses to which his Royal Highness was likely to be put? When his Royal Highness went to Windsor, did he incur any expense there? No. A table was provided for him. The Royal Duke resided within ten miles of Windsor, when at his country seat, and therefore the necessary journeys which, as custos, he would be obliged to make to the palace, could not be very expensive. Even when his Royal Highness resided in town, his travelling expenses to Windsor would not amount to much; and when it was considered that he held an office not usually continued in time of peace, yielding him great emoluments, and affording him provision for a considerable number of horses, he (Lord Grey) did not see that there could be any hardship in expecting him to visit his Royal father at certain intervals without any remuneration. The plea of dignity could not be urged, unless it was contended that a Prince of the blood could not undertake any duty, however imperative from family attachment, or however sacred from filial piety, unless he received a salary for its performance. (Hear!)

The Earl of LIVERPOOL justified the proceedings altogether, and took occasion to allude to what he termed the false and malignant labels which had been propagated during the life of her Majesty. It was not, he observed, until the veil which concealed her from the public eye was torn asunder by death, that every body knew how paltry and contemptible the sum was of which she was possessed. He could speak, from a correspondence in which he had been lately engaged, of the numerous acts of benevolence which she had performed, and could say with the utmost truth, that there were many, very many, who deplored her loss on account of the clarity they had received. He felt himself justified in saying, that there were great incidental expenses to be supported by the custos, though he could neither limit the extent of them, or distinctly point out of what nature they might be. He knew that the Royal Duke was willing to exercise the duties of his office without either fee or reward; but that willingness was, in his opinion, an additional reason why they should not let him do it.

The Marquis of BUCKINGHAM supported the Bill.

The Earl of LAUDERDALE observed, that it was impossible to make the Royal Duke *custos personæ* without subjecting him to certain extraordinary expenses—expenses of generosity, which, though they could not be defined, ought certainly to be provided for. An assertion had fallen from some gentleman in another place, that the grant was not improper, if taken from a certain fund. Now it was his opinion, that it would be impossible to take it from the privy purse, without violating the private property of the Crown.

The Earl of DARNLEY opposed the grant in the present distressed state of the country, and thought that his Royal Highness would best consult both his honour and interest in coming down to the House and withdrawing every claim to the proposed sum.

The Marquis of LANSDOWN was of the same opinion, with respect to the grant to the Duke; and he could not consider the privy purse as private property, for by the common law, the King could not hold any property whatever. (Hear!)

The LORD CHANCELLOR said that the privy purse was as much the private property of the King, as the property of any of their Lordships might be said to belong to them. His declaration might surprise some of their Lordships, but he declared, that if his Royal Highness were to perform the office of custos gratuitously, it would appear to him an objection to his holding it! The consideration was not what is the expense of travelling, but what was required for the dignity of the Royal Family. The 10,000*l.* was in this view as necessary as the 50,000*l.* was for the maintenance of the King's Household. His Royal Highness required too to be at a great expense, as succeeding in this office a person of so much bounty, (the late Queen!) lest the comparison should lessen the dignity and respect which he was bound to maintain on account of the person on whom he attended.

Lord KING considered this a most odious measure, and most injurious to the Royal Family. Ministers felt not the odium, although they alone were in fault; the 15 Cabinet Ministers divided the blame, and each thought little 1-15th of it; and hence they were, on subjects like the present, the most pliable phalanx that could be conceived. The grant now asked was most odious in all its circumstances. It was unnecessary to the custos; it was in every public view unnecessary; and it was of all things most injurious to call for an unnecessary sum to any of the Royal Family in the present distressed state of the country.

Earl GREY briefly replied. He asked were their Lordships thus to vote a sum of money on the imagination of a Minister? At all events, as he could neither imagine, nor explain it, he should oppose the grant.

The Bill went through the Committee. On putting the clause for allowing 10,000*l.* to the Duke of York as *custos* the *non contents* were pretty numerous, but it was carried without a division.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,—TUESDAY, MARCH 30.

LICENSING SYSTEM.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT said, he was about to present a Petition from a very poor but very honest man, who was one of a widely extended class of people, whose case deserved the gravest consideration. The Petitioner had a public-house, which he let; another person coming into the premises ran in debt with a brewer, who was a principal magistrate of the town (Plymouth), to a large amount, and could not pay him; in consequence of which the brewer refused to renew his

(the Petitioner's) license, unless he paid the debt, which he had nothing to do with, and did not possess the means of defraying. (Hear.) The Hon. Bart. said that he should not now enlarge upon the shameful and arbitrary power exercised by licensing magistrates: all he should at present move was, that this Petition be brought up, and that the evidence of the Brewer's Committee, which sat on a former occasion be now printed, and laid before the House.

The Petition was then brought up and read; it was from a person of the name of Hooper, who stated himself to have formerly kept the Rising Sun, Plymouth; that the transaction took place in 1813, and that the debt which was incurred by the other individual was so incurred during his absence in Cork. It concluded by stating, that the Petitioner had not the money to enable him to undertake a suit against a bench of justices, and praying that his case, and the grievances occasioned by the licensing system, might be taken into consideration.

Mr. WYNN said, that he really thought the proper place to have applied to, in this business, was a court of law. (Hear.) If the facts stated in the Petition were proved, a court of law could not hesitate for one moment to grant an information against the magistrate.

Mr. HUME said he should call upon the House some time or other, he hoped very soon, to prevent various shameful occurrences, which, however, daily took place under that system. (Hear.)

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT said, the object for the House's consideration was the chain of circumstances connected with that grievance, arising from a power which the House had very unwisely confided to the magistrates: and surely this involved an object of the greatest importance to the comfort of the great body of the people. A tax of 1*d.* was levied upon every pot of beer that was consumed by them, arising entirely from this arbitrary system of licensing. (Hear.) He hoped, therefore, there would be no objection to receiving that Petition. He was informed that the amount of the tax so levied upon the community was no less than 850,000*l.* without any benefit to the community, but that it went into the pockets of the great monopolizing brewers. It was calculated that the total value of the consumption of that article (beer) was 4,000,000*l.* The tax was felt therefore among all classes of people, but affected one class above all others, whom it was manifestly desirable it should least operate upon. (Hear.)

After some further conversation, strangers were ordered to withdraw, but no division took place, and the debate was adjourned.

DELAY IN COURTS OF EQUITY, &c.

Mr. M. A. TAYLOR moved for a return of the amount of sniters' effects in the hands of the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery in the year 1756, of their amount at the end of every subsequent ten years, and in the year 1818. The House would then be enabled to compare this amount with the number of suits, and to infer the importance and extent of the business transacted in that Court. It appeared by the report of the Committee, that in June, 1811, there were in arrear in the Court of Chancery, 114 causes, 59 demurrers, 35 appeals, and 5 re-hearings, together with 303 bankrupt petitions. At the present moment the number of causes was 239, the re-hearings 101, whilst the pleas and demurrers were diminished. He regretted the failure which had attended the institution of a new office, but had never anticipated much advantage from it. The true and efficacious remedy, and the remedy which he should exert himself to induce the House to apply, was the separation of bankruptcy from the jurisdiction of the great Seal. The indisposition of the Lord-Chancellor ought doubtless to be taken into the account, but the list of bankrupt petitions remained with little alteration the same in number as in 1811.—Agreed to.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL believed the Hon Gentleman was mistaken when he represented the arrears of business in Chancery to have increased. The number of appeals, indeed, had multiplied, from the institution of an inferior Court. The arrear of bankrupt petitions had, however, been considerably reduced. The number of cases determined by the Lord-Chancellor during the last three years exceeded all precedent, and was to be attributed to the practice, which was before unusual, of deciding important questions upon motion merely, instead of a formal suit.

Mr. D. GILBERT obtained leave to bring in a Bill to abolish the office of Lord Justice General of Scotland.

Mr. KENNEDY obtained leave to bring in a Bill to regulate the provision, for the poor in Scotland.—Adjourned.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2.

CRUELTY AT ILCHESTER.

Mr. BENNET rose to present a Petition from the Borough of Ilchester, complaining of a serious grievance. It stated, that the Proprietor of this Borough, considering a small number of Constituents most advantageous, had pulled down a number of houses, and turned out about 100 families, who at first took shelter in a temporary poor-house, but an ejection was served on them, and 163 men, women, and children, of all ages, were turned out into the streets in an inclement season of the year. Numbers of both sexes, decrepid old people, and pregnant women, were crowded into the Town-hall, and others compelled to find casual shelter. The unroofing of houses had been heard of as an expedient of exclusion; but remained for the agents of this proprietor to drive a man, his wife, and five children from their dwelling, by filling up the upper floors with dung and filth, which oozed and dripped through the ceilings. He moved, that the Petition be received.

Mr. WYNN objected to receiving the Petition, as it only contained charges against a man's moral character, who had a legal right to eject the poor people.

The Petition was withdrawn.

Military.

General Orders, by the Commander in Chief, Head-quarters, Calcutta; September 6, 1819.

The undermentioned Officers have leave of absence:

Captain W. C. Baddeley, 2d Battalion 24th Regiment, to the Presidency, on urgent private affairs, from the 24th of August to the 24th of February 1820.

Lieutenant and Adjutant Mathew, 1st Battalion 17th Regiment, on urgent private affairs, to the Presidency, from the 1st October to the 31st March 1820.

Lieutenant and Quarter Master Davies, 2d Battalion 20th Regiment, to remain at the Presidency, in extension, from the 25th October to the 25th February 1820.

Lieutenant P. W. Campbell, 2d Battalion 11th Regiment, to remain at the Presidency, on Medical Certificate, from the 2d September to the 2d October.

Head-quarters, Calcutta; September 8.

Assistant Surgeons Stewart and Hickman, lately arrived, are appointed to duty at the Presidency General Hospital.

The undermentioned Officers have leave of absence:

Captain S. H. Tod, 2d Battalion 30th Regiment, to remain at Moorsheadabad for the adjustment of his accounts in the Building Department, from the 31st August to 15th October.

Ensign O'Brien, Chumparun Light Infantry, on Medical Certificate, to enable him to join his Corps, from the 31st August to 31st October.

Head-quarters, Calcutta; September 9.

The Commander in Chief is pleased to publish the undermentioned proportion of Exercising Ammunition and Stores to be indented yearly, for the use of the different Field Batteries, in addition to the existing Table of Ordnance Stores, &c. allowed for Annual Practice, which is to be carried on, as heretofore, under the following restrictions.

1st.—That neither Exercising nor Practice Ammunition is to be allowed to detached details of two Guns, nor included in the indent for Batteries, respectively, unless there be a probability of the detached Guns joining.

2d.—That neither Exercising nor Practice Ammunition is to be allowed for Native Field Batteries when alone.

Apothecary Jones, lately appointed to the Artillery at Kurnaul, is posted to His Majesty's 14th Foot, vice Templeton deceased.

Lieutenant Hervey is removed from the 2d to the 1st Battalion 4th Regiment.

Head-quarters, Calcutta; August 11.

At an European General Court Martial assembled in Fort William, on Monday the 6th day of September 1819, Gunners Daniel Hickey and William Farrell were severally arraigned on the Charges specified against each, as undermentioned, viz.

"Gunner Daniel Hickey, of the 7th Company 1st Battalion Artillery, confined under the following Charges:

1st.—For Desertion from the Regiment of Artillery on or about the 17th August 1819, after having repeatedly absented himself from his Corps without leave.

2d.—For having, on the 24th of August 1819, armed himself with a Hammer, and aimed blows at the Sergeant of the Town Guards when attempting to seize him, and thereby endangered his (the Sergeant's) life.

Upon which Charges the Court came to the following decision:

Finding and Sentence.—The Court having maturely considered the Evidence before them, find the Prisoner, Gunner Hickey, Guilty of the Charges preferred against him, and adjudge him to suffer Four Months Solitary Confinement.

Approved and Confirmed,

(Signed) HASTINGS.

Gunner William Farrell, of the 8th Company 3d Battalion Artillery, confined under the following Charges:

1st.—For Desertion from the Regiment of Artillery on or about the 7th August 1819, after having before absented himself from his Corps without leave.

2d.—For having, on the 24th August 1819, armed himself with a strong knotted Stick, and aimed blows at the Sergeant of the Town Guards when attempting to seize him, and thereby endangered his (the Sergeant's) life.

Upon which Charges the Court came to the following decision:

Finding and Sentence.—The Court having maturely considered the Evidence before them, find the Prisoner, Gunner William Farrell, Guilty of the 1st Charge.

The Court acquit the Prisoner of the 2d Charge.

The Court adjudge the Prisoner to suffer Two Months Solitary Confinement.

Approved and Confirmed,

(Signed) HASTINGS.

J. NICOL, Adj. Genl. of the Army.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We received last Evening, too late for the press, a poetic Rejoinder of *The SATIRIST* to the Reply contained in our Journal of yesterday: and as the same cause, namely, a pressure of Parliamentary matter, will not operate to occasion its being laid by, as the Reply unavoidably was for several days, we hope to find room for it to-morrow. We may add here that the *SATIRIST* has signified his intention, in the Postscript of his Note to us, not to notice any further Effusions that may appear on this subject.

Domestic Occurrences.**BIRTHS.**

At Chowringhee, on the 14th instant, the Lady of G. P. Thompson, Esq. of the Civil Service, of a Daughter.

At Chowringhee, on the 14th instant, the Lady of Captain Lockett, of a Son.

At Muttra, on the 23d ultimo, Mrs. A. Murphy, of a Daughter.

DEATHS.

On the 4th of June, on board the *Oracabessa*, on her voyage to the Mauritius, Caroline, the second Daughter of Thomas Norris, Esq. of Bombay, aged 21 years.

On the 2d of August, in Camp Mallegaum, Lieutenant Thomas Walker Baird, 5th N. I. in charge of the Commissariat in Candia.

At Bombay, on the 17th of August, at the house of her brother the Rev. Mr. Payne, Miss Vibart, aged 19 years.

Shipping Intelligence.**BOMBAY ARRIVALS.**

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Aug. 14	Ann	British	T. Thatcher	London	Apr. 23
15	York (H. C.)	British	J. Talbert	Downs	May 6
19	Bombay Castle	British	C. Hutchinson	Liverpool	Apr. 6

BOMBAY DEPARTURES.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Aug. 16	Fatfeh Salem	Arab	Mahoe Adamjee	Malabar

Nautical Notices.

The following ships entered the River yesterday:—the *Marina*, from Padang 9th August, and Madras 6th September; the *Shaw Allum*, from Penang 19th August; the *Lloyd*, from London, Cork, and St. Helena 12th of February, Madras and Masulipatam 8th September; the *Prince of Orange*, from London, and Cork 4th April, touched at Point de Galie, whence she sailed the 3d September.

The *Lloyd* saw the following ships at St. Helena in the middle of June: *Thalia*, Captain Herbert, from Bengal; *Sherburn*, Captain Beach, from Bengal; *Lady Campbell*, Captain Marquis, from Bengal and the Malabar Coast; *Camden*, from Manila; *Phoenix*, from Bengal. She also spoke the *Ganges*, Captain O'Brien, off St. Helena.

On the 8th instant, the *Prince of Orange* spoke the *Amboyna*, from Calcutta bound to Madras.

On the 15th of May, the Active frigate, Captain Sir James Alexander Gordon, K. C. B. was moved out of Portsmouth harbour, against wind and tide, by means of Lieutenant James Barton's invention for impelling ships in a calm, with two paddle wheels, which are fixed on a spindle or axle-tree, projecting from the ship's side, immediately under the main deck, and just before the gangway. The Active started from the upper part of the harbour about first quarter flood, and succeeded in getting abreast of the platform, against an increasing contrary tide, running about two and an half knots, in a narrow channel, and a light breeze of contrary wind; when the wind freshening, and it being against the orders of the port that a ship of war would anchor in the narrows, she was dropped into the harbour again. In this movement the use of the paddles were seen, as they worked backwards with equal facility: neither warp nor boat aided her until she anchored again. Had she started from the harbour's mouth, and at an earlier period of the tide, she would easily have made her way to Spithead.

Passengers.

Passengers arrived at Calcutta on the Lloyd.

From Masulipatam—Colonel Pigot, 21st Dragoons; Lieutenant Colonel Lambton, 33d Regiment; Mrs. Russell and two Children.

From Madras—Mr. J. Roberts.

On the Prince of Orange.

From Point de Galie—Captain Sartorius, Mr. Leebat, 1st Officer, and five of the Crew of the late ship *Hayston*; 5 Officers, 206 Sepoys, and 39 Followers of the 1st Ceylon Volunteer Regiment.

Passengers arrived at Calcutta on the Ann.

Mrs. Geraud; Miss Geraud; Miss Kensington; Mrs. Thatcher; P. Irvine, Esq. Barrister; Mr. Roberts; Mr. Kensington; Mr. Stalker; Mr. Deacen; Mr. Apthorp; Mr. Brydon; Mr. Fletcher; Mr. Brown.

On the York.

Messrs. W. H. Jackson, James Outram, T. Stalker, Infantry Cadets; Mr. W. S. Cooke, Assistant Surgeon; Mr. J. L. Pitcairn, and Mr. J. D'Arcy, Cadets for the Bombay Marine; Mr. O. S. Lumley, Free Mariner; Mr. S. Edwards, who was drowned on the 25th of June.

TOM CRIB'S MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.

Account of a Grand Pugilistic Meeting, held at Belcher's, (Castle Tavern, Holborn) TOM CRIB in the Chair, to take into consideration the propriety of sending Representatives of the Fancy to Congress.—Extracted from a Letter written on the occasion by Harry Harmer the Hammerer, (a) to Ned Painter.

Αλλ' ὁδὸς τοῖς ΚΑΝ
Λευκὸν, ἔως αὖ
Τὸν πυρῶδα ἀκὴν TOM. (b)

LAST Friday night a bang-up set
Of milling blades at BELCHER'S met;
All high-bred Heroes of the Ring,
Whose very gammon would delight one;
Who, nurs'd beneath The Fancy's wing,
Show all her feathers—but the white one.

Brave TOM, the CHAMPION, with an air
Almost Corinthian, (c) took the Chair;
And kept the Cones (d) in quiet tune,
By shewing such a fist of mutton

As, on a Point of Order, soon
Would take the shine from Speaker SUTTON.

And all the lads look'd gay and bright,
And gin and genius flash'd about,
And whoso'er grew unpolite,

The well-bred CHAMPION serv'd him out.
As we'd been summon'd thus, to quaff
Our Deady (e) o'er some State Affairs,

Of course we mix'd not with the raff,
But had the Sunday room, up stairs.

And when we well had sluic'd our gobs, (f)
Till all were in prime twig for chatter,
Tom rose, and to our learned nob

Propounded thus th' important matter:—
"Gemmen," says he—Tom's words, you know,
Come, like his hitting, strong but slow—

"Seeing as how those Swells, that made
Old Boney quit the hammering trade,
(All Prime Ones in their own conceit)

"Will shortly at THE CONGRESS meet—
(Some place that's like THE FINISH (g) lads,
Where all your high pedestrian pads,

"That have been up and out all night,
Running their rigs among the rattlers, (h)
At morning meet, and,—honour bright,—

"Agree to share the blunt and tatters (i) (i)
Seeing as how, I say, these Swells
Are soon to meet, by special summons,

"To chime together, like 'hell's bells,'
And laugh at all mankind, as rum ones—
I see no reason, when such things

"Are going on among these Kings,
Why We, who're of the Fancy lay, (k)
As dead hands at a mill as they,

"And quite as ready, after it,
To share the spoil and grab the bit (l),

(a) So called in his double capacity of Boxer and Coppersmith.

(b) The passage in Pindar, from which the following lines of "Hark, the merry Christ Church Bells" are evenly borrowed.

The devil a man
Will leave his can,
Till he hears the Mighty Tom.

(c) i. e. With the air, almost, of a man of rank and fashion. Indeed according to Horace's notions of a peerage, Tom's claims to it are indisputable.

—illum superare pugnis
Noblem

(d) Fellows.

(e) Deady's gin, or Deady's brilliant stark naked.

(f) Had drunk heartily.

(g) A public-house in Covent-Garden, memorable as one of the places where the Gentlemen Depredators of the night (the Holy League of the Road) meet early in the morning, for the purpose of sharing the spoil, and arranging other matters connected with their most Christian Alliance.

(h) Robbing travellers in chaises, &c.

(i) The money and watches.

(k) Particular pursuit or enterprize. Thus, "he is on the kidlay," i. e. stopping children with parcels and robbing them—the ken-crack lay, house-break-
ing &c. &c.

(l) To seize the money.

"Should not be there, to join the chat,
To see, at least, what fun they're at,
And help their Majesties to find
New modes of punishing mankind.
What say you, lads? is any spark
Among you ready for a lark (m)
To this same Congress?—CALEB, JOE,
"BILL, BOB, what say you?—yes, or no?"

Thus spoke the CHAMPION. Prime of men,
And loud and long we cheer'd his prattle
With shouts, that thunder'd through the den (n)
And made Tom's Sunday tea-things rattle!

A pause ensued—till cries of "GREGSON"
Brought BOB, the Poet, on his legs soon—
(My eyes, how prettily BOB writes!

Talk of your Camels, Hogs, and Crabs, (o)
And twenty more such Pidocchi frights—
BOB's worth a hundred of these dabs:

For a short turn up (p) at a sonnet,
A round of odes, or Pastoral bout,
All Lombard-street to nine-pence on it, (q)

BOBBY's the boy would clean them out (r)
"Gemmen," says he—(BOB's eloquence
Lies much in C—N—G's line, 'tis said,

For, when BOB can't afford us sense,
He tips us poetry, instead—)
"Gemmen, before I touch the matter,

"On which I'm here had up for patter, (r)
A few short words I first must spare,
To him, THE HERO, that sits there,

"Swigging Blue Ruin, (s) in that chair.
(Hear—hear)—His fame I need not tell,
"For that, my friends, all England's loud with;

"But this I'll say, a civilier Swell
I'd never wish to blow a cloud (t) with!"

At these brave words, we, ev'ry one,
Sung out "hear—hear"—and clapp'd, like fun.

For, knowing how, on Moulsey's plain,
The CHAMPION fibb'd the poet's nob, (v)
This buttering-up, (u) against the grain,

"We thought was cur'd genteel in BOB.
And, here again, we may remark
BOB's likeness to the Lisbon jobber—(w)

For, though, all know, that flashy spark
From C—ST—R—GH receiv'd a nobber,
That made him look like sneaking Jerry,

And laid him up in ordinary, (x)
Yet, now, such loving pals (y) are they,
That GEORGEY, wiser as he's older,

Instead of facing C—ST—R—GH,
Is proud to be his bottle-holder!
But to return to BOB's harangue,

'Twas deuced fine—no stum or slang—
But such as you could smoke the bard in—
All full of flowers, like Common Garden,

With lots of figures, neat and bright,
Like Mother Salmon's—wax-work quite!
The next was TURNER—nobbing NED—

Who put his right leg forth, (z) and said,
"Tom, I admire your notion much;

"And, please the pigs, if well and hearty,
"I somehow think I'll have a touch,
"Myself, at this said Congress party.

"Though no great shakes at learned chat,
"If settling Europe be the sport,
"They'll find I'm just the boy for that,

"As tipping settlers is my forte!"
Then up rose WARD, the veteran JOE,
And, 'twixt his whiffs, (aa) suggested briefly

That but a few, at first, should go,
And those, the light-weight Gemmen chiefly;
As if too many "Big ones" went,

They might alarm the Continent!!
JOE added, then, that, as 'twas known
The R—G—R, bless his wig! had shown

A taste for Art, (like JOEY's own
And meant, "mong other sporting things,
To have the heads of all those Kings,

And conqu'rors, whom he loves so dearly,
Taken off—on canvas, merely;
God forbid the other mode!—

He (JOE) would from his own abode,
(The Dragon—fam'd for Fancy works,
Drawings of Heroes, and of corks)

Furnish such Gemmen of the Fist, (bb)
As would complete the R—G—R's list.
"Thus, Champion TOM," said he, "would look

"Right well, hung up beside the Duke—
"Tom's noddle being (if its frame
"Had but the gilding) much the same—

"And, as a partner for Old Blu,
"BILL GIBBONS or myself would do."

Loud cheering at this speech of JOEY'S—
Who, as the Dilettanti know, is
(With all his other learned parts,

Down as a hammer (cc) to the Arts! [NEDDY—
Old BILL, the Black, (dd)—you know him,
(With mug (ee), whose hue the ebony shames,

Reflected in a pint of Deady,
Like a large Collier in the Thames)
Though somewhat out, (ff) just begg'd to say

He hop'd that Swell, Lord C—ST—R—GH,
Would show the Lily-Whites (gg) fair play;
"And not—as once he did"—says BILL,

"Among those Kings, so high and squishy,
"Leave us, poor Blacks, to fare as ill,
As if we were but pigs, or—Irish!"

BILL GIBBONS, rising, wish'd to know
Whether 'twas meant his Bull should go—
"As should their Majesties be dull,"

Says BILL, "there's nothing like a Bull: (hh)
"And blow me tight,"—(BILL GIBBONS ne'er
In all his days was known to swear,

Except light oaths, to grace his speeches,
Like "dash my wig," or "burn my breeches!")
"Blow me—"

—Just then, the Chair, (ii) already
Grown rather lively with the Deady,

(aa) Joe being particularly fond of "that costly and gentlemanlike smoke" as Dekker calls it. The talent which JOE possesses of uttering a lark while he smokes—"ex fumo dare lucem"—is very remarkable.

(bb) Among the portraits is one of BILL GIBBONS, by a pupil of the great Fuseli, which gave occasion to the following impromptu:—

Though you are one of Fuseli's scholars,
This question I'll dare to propose,—
How the devil could you use water-colours,

In painting BILL GIBBONS's nose?
(cc) To be down to any thing is pretty much the same as being up to it, and "down as a hammer" is, of course, the intensification of the phrase.

(dd) RICHMOND, (ee) Face.

(ff) Cut, tipsy; another remarkable instance of the similarity that exists between the language of the Classics and that of St. Giles.—In Martial we find "Incaluit quoties saucia vena mero." Ennius, too, has "saciatum se flore Liberi;" and Justin "hesterno mero saucii."

(gg) Lily-whites. (or Snow-balls) Negroes.

(hh) Bill Gibbon has, I believe, been lately rivalled in this peculiar Walk of the Fancy, by the superior merits of Tom Oliver's Game Bull.

(ii) From the respect which I bear to all sorts of dignitaries, and my unwillingness to meddle with the "imputed weakness of the great," I have been induced to suppress the remainder of this detail.